

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AF-10
ARA-10 NEA-10 EB-08 COME-00 SIL-01 LAB-04 /131 W
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R 301719Z NOV 77
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3562
INFO USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
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ALSO USEEC AND USOECD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAID, GW
SUBJ: NORTH/SOUTH COMMISSION

REF: BONN 19803

1. SUMMARY: ON NOVEMBER 29 WILLY BRANDT HELD A PRESS
CONFERENCE AND ANNOUNCED THE COMPOSITION OF THE
INDEPENDENT COMMISSION ON INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
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ISSUES. THE ENGLISH TEXT OF THE PRESS RELEASE IS
CONTAINED IN PARA 2 BELOW. BIOGRAPHIC DATA ON
COMMISSION MEMBERSHIP WAS ALSO DISTRIBUTED (BEING
AIR POUCHED). BRANDT MADE SOME EXPLANATORY COMMENTS
WHICH ARE SUMMARIZED IN PARAS 3 AND 4 BELOW. GERMAN
PRESS COMMENT ON NOVEMBER 30 WAS VERY THIN, BUT A
FEW HIGHLIGHTS ARE GIVEN IN PARA 5 BELOW. END SUMMARY.

2. ENGLISH TEXT OF PRESS RELEASE FOLLOWS:

QTE: ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE INDEPENDENT
COMMISSION ON INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ISSUES
WILLY BRANDT

ON THE BASIS OF A PROPOSAL MADE EARLY THIS YEAR BY
WORLD BANK PRESIDENT MCNAMARA, ON SEPTEMBER 28, 1977
I ANNOUNCED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INDEPENDENT
COMMISSION. THE FIRST MEETING WILL TAKE PLACE
DECEMBER 9 - 11, 1977 IN GYMnich CASTLE NEAR BONN.

AFTER THE END OF THE PARIS NORTH-SOUTH CONFERENCE, THE
TASKS OF THIS COMMISSION HAVE BEEN DISCUSSED IN
NUMEROUS TALKS WITH POLITICANS FROM DEVELOPING AND
INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES. AN EXTENSIVE EXCHANGE OF
VIEWS ALSO TOOK PLACE IN WASHINGTON IN SEPTEMBER (AT
THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE WORLD BANK AND THE
INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND) AND IN NEW YORK 9AT THE
UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY).

IT WILL BE THE TASK OF THE COMMISSION TO IDENTIFY
POSSIBILITIES OF RESTRUCTURING THE RELATIONS BETWEEN
INDUSTRIAL AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WHICH CAN COMMAND
THE WIDEST POSSIBLE SUPPORT. IN SO DOING, THE
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COMMISSION WILL NOT INTERFERE WITH ONGOING
INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATIONS BUT RATHER TRY TO
SUPPLEMENT THE PRESENT ENDEAVOURS OF GOVERNMENTS AND
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS TO ARRIVE AT EQUITABLE
SOLUTIONS WHICH ARE ALSO CAPABLE OF POLITICAL
REALIZATION. IT WILL ALSO STRIVE TO ENHANCE THE PUBLIC
AWARENESS OF THE NEED FOR INCREASED COOPERATION
BETWEEN RICHER AND POORER COUNTRIES.

I HAVE ASKED THE FOLLOWING PERSONALITIES TO MAKE THEIR
EXPERIENCE AVAILABLE TO THE COMMISSION IN A COOPERATION
FREE FROM GOVERNMENT INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1) MR. ABDLATIF Y. AL-HAMAD, KUWAIT
- 2) MR. RODRIGO BOTERO MONTOYA, COLOMBIA
- 3) MR. ANTOINE KIPSA DAKOURE, UPPER VOLTA
- 4) MR. EDUARDO FREI MONTALVA, CHILE
- 5) MRS. KATHARINE GRAHAM, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

6) MR. EDWARD HEATH, UNITED KINGDOM

7) MR. AMIR H. JAMAL, TANZANIA

8) MR. LAKSHMI KANT JHA, INDIA

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9) DR. ADAM MALAK, INDONESIA

10) MR. PIERRE MENDES-FRANCE, FRANCE

11) MR. JOE MORRIS, CANADA

12) MR. OLOF PALME, SWEDEN

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13) MR. PETER G. PETERSON, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

14) MR. SHRIDATH S. RAMPHAL, LONDON; GUYANA

15) MR. NOBUHIKO USHIBA, JAPAN

16) MR. LAYACHI YAKER, ALGERIA

THE COMMISSION WILL BE AIDED BY AN INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT LOCATED IN GENEVA AND HEADED BY THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE COMMISSION, PROFESSOR GOERAN OHLIN (SWEDEN).

IT IS ENVISAGED THAT THE COMMISSION WILL SUBMIT ITS FINDINGS AND PROPOSALS IN A REPORT IN SOME 18 MONTHS. THIS REPORT WILL BE SENT TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND AT THE SAME TIME MADE AVAILABLE TO GOVERNMENTS, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND THE PUBLIC AT LARGE.

IN ORDER TO ENSURE ITS INDEPENDENCE THE OPERATION COSTS OF THE COMMISSION WILL BE MET BY UNTIED CONTRIBUTIONS. THE NETHERLANDS GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN THE FIRST TO PLEDGE GENEROUS SUPPORT ON THIS BASIS.

FEDERAL PRESIDENT SCHEEL HAS AGREED TO ATTEND THE INAUGURAL MEETING AT GYMNICH CASTLE WHICH HAS BEEN MADE AVAILABLE BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT. FOLLOING A RECEPTION BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION WILL MEET A NUMBER OF PROMINENT GERMAN PERSONALITIES AT A DINNER GIVEN BY THE FEDERAL PRESIDENT. UNQTE.

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3. IN EXPLAINING THE PRESS RELEASE, BRANDT SAID THAT NORTH/SOUTH RELATIONS CONSTITUTE THE FOREMOST SOCIAL ISSUE FOR THE FINAL QUARTER OF THIS CENTURY. HE EMPHASIZED THAT THE INDEPENDENT COMMISSION CANNOT PERFORM THE FUNCTIONS OF GOVERNMENTS AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, BUT THE INSIGHT AND SUGGESTIONS OF THE

COMMISSION MIGHT COMPLEMENT SUCH FUNCTIONS AND INFLUENCE PUBLIC OPINION. THE GOAL OF THE COMMISSION WILL BE TO PROMOTE EQUALITY AND TO RESOLVE CONFLICTS BY PEACEFUL MEANS. BRANDT SAID THAT THE COMMISSION WILL TRY NOT TO CAUSE DELAYS OR POSTPONEMENTS OF CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS OR PENDING DECISIONS.

4. BRANDT ACKNOWLEDGED ENCOURAGEMENT FROM PRESIDENT MCNAMARA AND VICE PRESIDENT CLARK OF THE WORLD BANK AND FROM DUTCH AID MINISTER PRONK, AS WELL AS FROM CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE FRG GOVERNMENT. BRANDT SAID THAT THE COMMISSION HOPES TO PRESENT A REPORT IN ABOUT 18 MONTHS AND THAT HE WILL TRY TO MAKE THE REPORT UNDERSTANDABLE TO NON-EXPERTS.

5. GERMAN PRESS COMMENT: THE GERMAN PRESS COMMENTED FAVORABLY ON THE FACT THAT THE MAJORITY OF COMMISSION MEMBERS WOULD COME FROM DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, WHICH SHOULD RESULT IN MORE THIRD WORLD CONFIDENCE IN THE REPORT OF THE COMMISSION. THERE WAS ALSO FAVORABLE COMMENT ON THE FACT THAT THE COMMISSION WAS SUPPORTED BY THE FRG GOVERNMENT AS INDICATED BY THE PLANS FOR PARTICIPATION BY PRESIDENT SCHEEL AT ITS FIRST MEETING. SUEDEDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG EMPHASIZED THAT, WHILE THE COMMISSION LACKS POWER TO ENFORCE ITS DECISIONS, ANY CONSENSUS IT REACHES SHOULD HAVE CONSIDERABLE MORAL FORCE.

6. BRANDT TOLD AMBASSADOR STOESSEL ON NOV. 29 THAT THE SCHEDULE OF COMMISSION MEETINGS IS ROUGHLY AS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FOLLOWS: 1978: FIRST MEETING IN SAUDI ARABIA IN FEB. OR MARCH, 1978. SECOND MEETING PROBABLY IN MALI, PROBABLY IN MAY. THIRD AND FOURTH MEETINGS TO BE SOMEWHERE IN ASIA, AND SOMEWHERE IN THE U.S., RESPECTIVELY. IN 1979, TWO MEETINGS WOULD TAKE PLACE

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IN THE FIRST HALF OF THE YEAR -- ONE IN LATIN AMERICA,
AND ONE IN VIENNA. HE HOPES THAT THE COMMISSION WILL
COMPLETE ITS CYCLE OF MEETINGS AND DRAW ITS CONCLUSIONS
DURING THE FIRST HALF OF 1979. THE SECRETARIAT OF THE
COMMISSION WILL BE LOCATED IN GENEVA, AND THE SWISS
GOVERNMENT WILL CONTRIBUTE OFFICE SPACE AND OTHER FORMS
OF OVERHEAD SUPPORT.

7. BRANDT MENTIONED THAT, SINCE COMMISSION MEMBER
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USHIBA WAS JUST APPOINTED MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO
IN FUKUDA'S NEW CABINET, HE WILL PROBABLY HAVE TO
RESIGN AND BE REPLACED BY ANOTHER JAPANESE. BRANDT
ALSO SAID THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO FIND A DISTINGUISHED
WOMAN REPRESENTATIVE OF THE THIRD WORLD TO ADD TO THE
COMMISSION MEMBERSHIP.

8. COMMENT:

THE STATURE OF THE INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS

SHOULD PROMOTE A SERIES OF RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH WILL
DRAW SUPPORT FROM DISPARATE POLITICAL
FORCES IN THE WORLD. BECAUSE OF THE LARGE NUMBER OF
PARTICIPANTS FROM THE DEVELOPING WORLD, THE COMMISSION
HAS A CHANCE OF BECOMING A VALUABLE FORUM FOR THE
EXCHANGE OF IDEAS. HOW THE RECOMMENDATIONS WILL
COMPLEMENT POLICIES OF GOVERNMENTS AND INTERNATIONAL
ORGANIZATIONS WILL DEPEND ON THE REALISM OF THE
COMMISSION'S APPROACH.
STOESSEL

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